

THINK REDUCE RECYCLE AT APARTMENTS AND CONDOMINIUMS

Montgomery County, Maryland

Issue No. 16, June 2010



READY FOR MOVE-INS & MOVE-OUTS?

New residents come with a lot of... baggage! And residents moving out are frequently looking to lighten their load. Offering information and assistance on reuse and recycling lets them know that the property is committed to waste reduction and recycling. New residents may be more likely to establish good recycling habits, and exiting residents may be less likely to leave an unsightly mess in your solid waste collection area.

Moving In

Along with your move-in package, provide new residents with an apartment-sized recycling bin and information to answer the following questions:

What do I do with cardboard boxes?

If there is space on the property, a great reuse opportunity is to store empty boxes and offer them to residents moving out that need boxes. If not, let the residents know where to recycle their cardboard boxes, especially if you do not have mixed paper recycling dumpsters at every collection area.



What about Styrofoam™ packing peanuts?

Many mailing/packaging centers accept and reuse foam packing peanuts. Contact those near your property to find out which ones accept them.

Can I reuse bubble wrap?

recycling containers.

Of course! Some mailing/packaging centers (such as The UPS Store) accept bubble wrap for reuse. Even fine art craft galleries may appreciate bubble wrap in good condition.



Cardboard boxes overwhelm recycling containers.



Cardboard boxes fit in mixed paper recycling dumpsters, alleviating overflow issues.

I am all moved in. How does the recycling program work here?

Provide information on where the solid waste/recyclable material collection areas are located, what to do if containers are full, and what materials can be recycled at the property and elsewhere in the county.

Contact the TRRAC Program at 240-777-6446 to request a supply of apartment-sized recycling bins, recycling brochures, and magnets for your residents.

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Moving Out

Residents about to move minimize how much they have to pack by taking the time to declutter and get rid of items they no longer want or need. Helping them find reuse opportunities will benefit the property and the environment.

- Coordinate with a non-profit organization to schedule a donation truck to come to the property during the months with greatest turnover.
- Point your residents to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/useitagain, where they can locate organizations that will accept a wide variety of reusable items; some organizations will even pick up resident items at your property.
- Encourage residents to recycle more at Montgomery County's Solid Waste Transfer Station/Recycling Center located at 16101 Frederick Road in Derwood. Acceptable items include electronics, textiles and shoes, tires, usable building materials, cooking oil, motor oil, antifreeze, and household hazardous waste.
- Freecycle.org is a website where residents can offer items to others for free; the person interested in the items pick them up.
- 3 In need of a bulk trash collection? A list of service providers is available in the Property Manager's Guide to Recycling, which you can download from www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling. Make sure scrap metal items are collected separately. Please note that the County's Division of Solid Waste Services does

not provide bulk trash collection or other collection services at multi-family properties.

Calender of Events

Sunday, July 25, 2010

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING COLLECTION

12:00 pm to 4:00 pm Blake High School 300 Norwood Road Silver Spring, Maryland 20905

Tuesday, August 3, 2010 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Look for special events county-wide or plan your own (and invite us)!

August 13-21, 2010 MONTGOMERY COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR

Montgomery County Fairgrounds 16 Chestnut Street Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

Sunday, August 22, 2010 ELECTRONICS RECYCLING COLLECTION

12:00 pm to 4:00 pm Montgomery Blair High School 51 University Boulevard East Silver Spring, Maryland 20901

For information about these events, call 240-777-6446 or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling

RECYCLE EVERYWHERE!

Do you have community spaces at your property that are enjoyed by your residents? Can they recycle in those spaces? Here are some examples of how properties are embracing the requirement to have recycling containers everywhere trash containers are located. It makes recycling easy!



Business Center



On-site Restaurant



Community Room



Fitness Center



Foyer



Pool

SCRAP METAL:

Think Globally, Act Locally

Multi-family properties are in various stages of implementing their scrap metal recycling programs.

Most properties ensure that old appliances and metal are recycled during apartment upgrades and property renovations, but many properties have also implemented the required scrap metal recycling program for their residents. Scrap metal generated by residents includes items such as bed frames, lamps, pots and pans, small appliances such as toasters, and wire clothes hangers.

Why care?

The supply of metal in nature is non-renewable, but metal can be recycled over and over again, as long as it does not get disposed of as trash. In fiscal year 2009, Montgomery County multi-family properties recycled more than 1700 tons of scrap metal, a fraction of the scrap metal actually generated. The United States recycled 72 million tons of metals, or 52 percent of the metal supply market in 2007, the most recent year for which data is available, as reported by the U.S. Geological Survey. According to the Steel Recycling Institute, it is always cheaper to recycle steel than to mine virgin ore and process it into new steel, due in large part to the reduced energy consumption. And, a scrap metal recycling program is required in Montgomery County.

Implementing a scrap metal recycling program is easy!

- ✓ Place labeled scrap metal recycling containers at each recycling collection site to make recycling convenient for residents. Purchase containers at hardware stores or supply stores or obtain them from your scrap metal collection company. Use containers that are different from the recycling containers for commingled materials and mixed paper to make it easy for residents to distinguish which container is for each material.
- ✓ Establish a labeled storage area for larger metal items. Options include storage sheds, rooms in garages, and roll-off containers. If your staff monitors the containers at the collection sites, they can bring material to this area to store it until it is collected for recycling.
- ✓ Identify a scrap metal collector. The collector you use to recycle commingled materials and mixed paper may not collect and recycle scrap metal. If a collection company recycles your appliances, find out if they will accept smaller metal items. Alternatively, contact bulk trash collection companies to see if they collect and recycle scrap metal; an on-call service may be sufficient. Ensure scrap metal is kept separate from bulk trash. Obtain the weight or an itemized list of metal items collected. The Property Manager's Guide to Recycling includes a list of service providers and can be downloaded from www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling. You can also self-haul scrap metal to the Montgomery County Solid Waste Transfer Station/Recycling Center to recycle it free of charge or to a scrap metal recycling company, which may pay you for the material.
- Educate your residents! Placing scrap metal recycling containers throughout the property without resident education will likely result in contamination and confusion. The TRRAC Program can assist you by providing a template for a scrap metal recycling notice as well as scrap metal recycling brochures, container labels, and posters.
- Troubleshoot. If you observe residents placing other recyclable materials such as mixed paper items or commingled materials in the scrap metal recycling container, it may be a sign of insufficient recycling capacity for those other materials, or it may indicate a lack of awareness of the scrap metal recycling program.

Several scrap metal recycling collection companies are reporting an increase in the volume of material received from multi-family properties. Keep up the good work, and call the TRRAC Program at 240-777-6446 if you have questions.





June 2010

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RECYCLE MORE NOW!

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

DIMSION OF SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Multi-Family Recycling Program Contact: Lauren Kuhn 101 Monroe Street, 6th Floor Rockville, Maryland 20850

Office: 240-777-6446 TTY: 240-777-6442 Fax: 240-777-6465

Website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling E-mail: lauren.kuhn@montgomerycountymd.gov

County Transfer Station 240-777-6560
County Recycling Center 301-417-1433

To receive this newsletter electronically, simply subscribe at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling. This information is available in an alternative format by calling Lauren Kuhn at 240-777-6446.

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WHY DO YOU RECYCLE?

We asked some apartment/condominium residents that question recently, and here is what they said:

Why recycle? Because it makes dollars and sense. The more we recycle the less landfill we need, the less energy we use...that's dollars. Sense? Recycling saves energy and natural resources, helping our environment...the air we breathe, the water we drink. – Joyce Siegel

I hate to think of the landfill full of plastic and glass bottles, when we could recycle them into a product that could be reused. - Joyce Temple

Residents at the Promenade Towers in Bethesda recycle simply because we care about the environment and believe we can make a difference. – Promenade Towers Green Committee

In terms of condo recycling, there's a great synergy when the whole community gets behind a positive project. We actually became closer as a community as we learned and encouraged each other to recycle. Personally, I've always been interested in leaving nature as it was, so recycling came natural to me. – Jeff Aurich

EVENT SPOTLIGHT!

